TABLE 4-1. STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.

GOAL 1: ENDANGERED AND OTHER AT-RISK SPECIES AND NATIVE BIOTIC COMMUNITIES *Achieve recovery of at-risk native species dependent on the Delta and Suisun Bay as the first step toward establishing large, self-sustaining populations of these species; support similar recover of at-risk native species in San Francisco Bay and the watershed above the estuary; and minimize the need for future endangered species listings by reversing downward population trends of native species that are not listed.*	
	OBJECTIVE 1: Achieve, first, recovery and then large self-sustaining populations of the following at-risk na beetle, Suisun ornate shrew, Suisun song sparrow, soft bird's-beak, Suisun thistle, Mason's lilaeopsis, San Pablo song sparrow, Lange's metalmark butterfly, Antioch Dunes evening primrose, Contra Costa wallflower, and Suisun marsh aster.
	OBJECTIVE 2: Contribute to the recovery of the following at-risk native species in the Bay-Delta estuary and its watershed: Sacramento perch, delta green ground beetle, giant garter snake, salt marsh harvest mouse, riparian brush rabbit, San Pablo California vole, San Joaquin Valley woodrat, least Bell's vireo, California clapper rail, California black rail, little willow flycatcher, bank swallow, western yellow-billed cuckoo, greater sandhill crane, Swainson's hawk, California yellow warbler, salt marsh common yellowthroat, Crampton's tuctoria, Northern California black walnut, delta tule pea, delta mudwort, bristly sedge, delta coyote thistle, alkali milkvetch, and Point Reyes bird's-beak.
	OBJECTIVE 3: Enhance and/or conserve native biotic communities in the Bay-Delta estuary and its watershed, including the abundance and distribution of the following biotic assemblages and communities: native resident estuarine and freshwater fish assemblages, anadromous lampreys, neotropical migratory birds, wading birds, shore birds, waterfowl, native anuran amphibians, estuarine plankton assemblages, estuarine and freshwater marsh plant communities, riparian plant communities, seasonal wetland plant communities, vernal pool communities, aquatic plant communities, and terrestrial biotic assemblages associated with aquatic and wetland habitats.
	OBJECTIVE 4: Maintain the abundance and distribution of the following species: hardhead, western least bittern, California tiger salamander, western spadefoot toad, California red-legged frog, western pond turtle, California freshwater shrimp, recurved larkspur, mad-dog skullcap, rose-mallow, eel-grass pondweed, Colusa grass, Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop, Contra Costa goldfields, Greene's legenere, heartscale, and other species designated "maintain" in the Multi-Species Conservation Strategy.
GOAL 2: ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES *Rehabilitate natural processes in the Bay-Delta estuary and its watershed to fully support, with minimal ongoing human intervention, natural aquatic and associated terrestrial biotic communities and habitats, in ways that favor native members of those communities.*	
	OBJECTIVE 1: Establish and maintain hydrologic and hydrodynamic regimes for the Bay and Delta that support the recovery and restoration of native species and biotic communities, support the restoration and maintenance of functional natural habitats, and maintain harvested species.
	OBJECTIVE 2: Increase estuarine productivity and rehabilitate estuarine food web processes to support the recovery and restoration of native estuarine species and biotic communities.
	OBJECTIVE 3: Rehabilitate natural processes to create and maintain complex channel morphology, in-channel islands, and shallow water habitat in the Delta and Suisun Marsh.
	OBJECTIVE 4: Create and/or maintain flow and temperature regimes in rivers that support the recovery and restoration of native aquatic species.
	OBJECTIVE 5: Establish hydrologic regimes in streams, including sufficient flow timing, magnitude, duration, and high flow frequency, to maintain channel and sediment conditions supporting the recovery and restoration of native aquatic and riparian species and biotic communities.
	OBJECTIVE 6: Reestablish floodplain inundation and channel-floodplain connectivity of sufficient frequency, timing, duration, and magnitude to support the restoration and maintenance of functional natural floodplain, riparian, and riverine habitats.

	OBJECTIVE 7: Restore coarse sediment supplies to sediment-starved rivers downstream of reservoirs to support the restoration and maintenance of functional natural riverine habitats.
	OBJECTIVE 8: Increase the extent of freely meandering reaches and other pre-1850 river channel forms to support the restoration and maintenance of functional natural riverine, riparian, and floodplain habitats.
GOAL 3: HARVESTED SPECIES	
Maintain and/or enhance populations of selected species for sustainable commercial and recreational harvest, consistent with the other ERP strategic goals.	
	OBJECTIVE 1: Enhance fisheries for salmonids, white sturgeon, pacific herring, and native cyprinid fishes.
	OBJECTIVE 2: Maintain, to the extent consistent with ERP goals, fisheries for striped bass, American shad, signal crayfish, grass shrimp, and nonnative warmwater gamefishes.
	OBJECTIVE 3: Enhance, to the extent consistent with ERP goals, populations of waterfowl and upland game for harvest by hunting and for non-consumptive recreation.
	OBJECTIVE 4: Ensure that chinook salmon, steelhead, trout, and striped bass hatchery, rearing, and planting programs do not have detrimental effects on wild populations of native fish species and ERP actions.
GOAL 4: HABITATS	
Protect and/or restore functional habitat types in the Bay-Delta estuary and its watershed for ecological and public values such as supporting species and biotic communities, ecological processes, recreation, scientific research, and aesthetics.	
	OBJECTIVE 1: Restore large expanses of all major habitat types, and sufficient connectivity among habitats, in the Delta, Suisun Bay, Suisun Marsh, and San Francisco Bay to support recovery and restoration of native species and biotic communities and rehabilitation of ecological processes. These habitat types include tidal marsh (fresh, brackish, and saline), tidal perennial aquatic (including shallow water and tide flats), nontidal perennial aquatic, tidal sloughs, midchannel island and shoal, seasonal wetlands, riparian and shaded riverine aquatic, inland dune scrub, upland scrub, and perennial grasslands.
	OBJECTIVE 2: Restore large expanses of all major aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitats, and sufficient connectivity among habitats, in the Central Valley and its rivers to support recovery and restoration of native species and biotic communities and rehabilitation of ecological processes. These habitat types include riparian and shaded riverine aquatic, instream, fresh emergent wetlands, seasonal wetlands, other floodplain habitats, lacustrine, and other freshwater fish habitats.
	OBJECTIVE 3: Protect tracts of existing high quality major aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitat types, and sufficient connectivity among habitats, in the Bay-Delta estuary and its watershed to support recovery and restoration of native species and biotic communities, rehabilitation of ecological processes, and public value functions.
	OBJECTIVE 4: Minimize the conversion of agricultural land to urban and suburban uses and maintain open space buffers in areas adjacent to existing and future restored aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitats, and manage agricultural lands in ways that are favorable to birds and other wildlife.
	OBJECTIVE 5: Manage the Yolo and Sutter Bypasses as major areas of seasonal shallow water habitat to enhance native fish and wildlife, consistent with CALFED Program objectives and solution principles.
GOAL 5: NONNATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES	
Prevent the establishment of additional non-native invasive species and reduce the negative ecological and economic impacts of established non-native species in the Bay-Delta estuary and its watershed.	
	OBJECTIVE 1: Eliminate further introductions of new species from the ballast water of ships into the Bay-Delta estuary.
	OBJECTIVE 2: Eliminate further introductions of new species from imported marine and freshwater baits into the Bay-Delta estuary and its watershed.
	OBJECTIVE 3: Halt the unauthorized introduction and spread of potentially harmful non-native introduced species of fish or other aquatic organisms in the Bay-Delta and Central Valley.

	OBJECTIVE 4: Halt the release of non-native introduced fish and other aquatic organisms from private aquaculture operations and the aquarium and pet trades into the Bay-Delta estuary, its watershed, and other California waters.
	OBJECTIVE 5: Halt the introduction of non-native invasive aquatic and terrestrial plants into the Bay-Delta estuary, its watershed, and other central California waters.
	OBJECTIVE 6: Reduce the impact of non-native mammals on native birds, mammals, and other organisms.
	OBJECTIVE 7: Limit the spread or, when possible and appropriate, eradicate populations of non-native invasive species through focused management efforts.
	OBJECTIVE 8: Prevent the invasion of the zebra mussel into California.
GOAL 6: WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY *Improve and/or maintain water and sediment quality conditions that fully support healthy and diverse aquatic ecosystems in the Bay-Delta estuary and watershed; and eliminate, to the extent possible, toxic impacts to aquatic organisms, wildlife, and people.*	
	OBJECTIVE 1: Reduce the loadings and concentrations of toxic contaminants in all aquatic environments in the Bay-Delta estuary and watershed to levels that do not adversely affect aquatic organisms, wildlife, and human health.
	OBJECTIVE 2: Reduce loadings of oxygen-depleting substances from human activities into aquatic ecosystems in the Bay-Delta estuary and watershed to levels that do not cause adverse ecological effects.
	OBJECTIVE 3: Reduce fine sediment loadings from human activities into rivers and streams to levels that do not cause adverse ecological effects.

♦ CHAPTER 5. IMPLEMENTING THE ERP

INTRODUCTION

The ERP contains hundreds of programmatic actions that, after being refined and evaluated, will be implemented and monitored throughout the ERP focus area over the 30 or more year implementation phase of the CALFED program. Because of the large scope of the ERP, both in the number of restoration actions and the area within which they will be implemented, restoration of the Bay-Delta ecosystem will occur in stages. Staged implementation will also facilitate an adaptive management approach to ecosystem restoration, since it is difficult to know how the Bay-Delta ecosystem will respond to implementation of proposed ERP actions, as well as the implementation of other CALFED Program components. Later stages of ERP implementation will thus be more responsive to future Bay-Delta conditions, and they will benefit from the knowledge gained from restoration actions implemented in earlier stages. Staged implementation will also allow the costs of restoration to be spread over multiple years.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program has defined the initial stage of implementation, Stage 1, as the first 7 years following a Record of Decision (ROD) and certification of the Final Programmatic EIS/EIR. The focus of Stage 1 is to implement the six common programs while feasibility studies, planning and design, impact evaluation, and permit acquisition on potential new storage and conveyance facilities are completed. In this manner, storage and conveyance facilities may be ready for construction at the beginning of Stage 2 if they are required, while implementation of the common programs during Stage 1 may obviate the need for, or reduce the scope of, new facilities required.

The Stage 1 action plan for the ERP will include restoration actions that are technically, economically, and politically feasible to implement in the first 7 years of the restoration program, and actions for which environmental documentation can be prepared and required permits can be acquired during the early years of Stage 1. Within these parameters, the focus of the ERP in Stage 1 is to implement those restoration actions that, based upon current assumptions and hypotheses about ecosystem structure and dynamics, will provide the greatest ecological benefits within existing constraints (such as large water supply and flood control dams), thereby improving the environmental baseline for future stages of restoration. In Stage 1, the ERP also aims to resolve critical uncertainties about ecosystem structure and function that currently hamper our ability to adequately define problems or design restoration actions. Twelve critical issues and potential restoration opportunities to address the issues are described later in this chapter. ERP implementation in Stage 1 also focuses on reducing conflicts among beneficial uses of Bay-Delta resources and building public support for long-term ecosystem restoration and management. Appendix D contains a draft list of ERP actions to be implemented in Stage 1.

Appendix D contains a draft list of ERP actions for Stage 1 implementation. The draft Stage 1 actions are a subset of programmatic actions described in Volume II of the ERPP that are feasible to implement in the first 7 years and that address key stressors for high-priority watersheds and areas of the Bay and Delta. The proposed actions in Appendix D are provisional. Continuing work efforts will help to refine the draft Stage 1 actions by articulating assumptions about ecosystem structure and function, and by applying a set of project selection/prioritization criteria.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PRIORITY SETTING

The following is a list of five consensus principles developed by the ERP Focus Group to guide prioritization of ecosystem restoration activities. These guiding principles are intended to establish fundamental ground rules for ongoing and future priority setting and funding decisions related to ERP implementation. The principles specifically address the following:

- The process for developing near- and long-term ERP actions;
- The role of science-based adaptive management; and
- Parameters for determining the balance of funding priorities and allocation.

These guiding principles will be used in combination with project selection criteria (as described later in the Strategic Plan) to determine priorities. The principles will apply in moving from programmatic actions to regional implementation plans (or Ecological Management Zone Or Ecological Management Unit Plans), as well as in moving from regional implementation plans to project-specific actions. The principles, in and of themselves, do not establish implementation strategies or priorities, but rather are intended to be used in concert with more detailed selection criteria and statutory responsibilities to facilitate an integrated and transparent decision making process for program implementation.

Decisions related to selecting/prioritizing ERP actions and ensuring compliance with state and federal endangered species laws will be integrated to the maximum extent possible to promote one consistent and efficient approach to ecosystem restoration, in accordance with a single blueprint.

CONSENSUS PRINCIPLES

1. **BASIS FOR ERP IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES:** The development of annual, near-term and long-term ERP implementation priorities and strategies will be based on the goals and objectives of the ERP Strategic Plan, MSCS, ESA recovery plans, and implementation plans developed for specific ecological management zones, and informed by a science based adaptive management process.

2. **ROLE OF SCIENCE:** A science based adaptive management process will be used to review and advise on ERP strategies and priorities. This process will include adequate monitoring, research, and performance assessment activities, and an independent Ecosystem Science Board. CALFED is committed to using the best available science for ERP implementation in accordance with a single blueprint.

3. **SETTING PRIORITIES:** Final decisions regarding ERP implementation strategies, priorities, and funding allocations will be made by the CALFED Policy Group or its successor entity, based on recommendations developed through a collaborative effort involving the CALFED Science Program (including an Ecosystem Science Board), CALFED agencies, stakeholders, and the public.

4. **FUNDING PRIORITIES:** ERP implementation will include strategies to address the immediate needs of species and other ecosystem components at highest risk; and comprehensive measures to protect and restore habitats, rehabilitate ecological processes, and reduce stressor impacts. The initial funding allocation between these strategies is intended by CALFED to be balanced so that the total allocation provides for a comprehensive restoration approach. Adequate funding will be provided to fully support the science-based adaptive management process and the administration and management of the ERP.

5. **USE OF ERP FUNDS:** ERP funds will be used to implement management measures identified in the ERPP, non-mitigation measures identified in the MSCS, and/or measures developed under the ERP adaptive management process.

REFINING THE LIST OF ERP ACTIONS FOR STAGE 1 IMPLEMENTATION

A series of continuing work efforts will help refine the Draft ERP Actions for Stage 1 Implementation. CALFED is developing a series of scientific white papers that will succinctly describe assumptions about ecosystem structure and function and identify information gaps to be addressed by further analysis, research and monitoring. The white papers are designed to

- Develop conceptual models that describe the key inter-relationships among ecosystem components, system dynamics, and limiting factors relevant to the white paper topic. The white papers will also indicate the degree of confidence and consensus about our understanding of the interrelationships, dynamics, and limiting factors. These conceptual models will be composed of both written description and diagrams.

- Identify uncertainties or scientific disagreements about key interrelationships among ecosystem components, system dynamics, and limiting factors that prevent us from defining or selecting management actions with sufficient confidence or consensus of being effective. The white papers will suggest adaptive management interventions, targeted research, and expanded regional monitoring for addressing these uncertainties.

- Identify general opportunities for, and constraints to, applying restoration/ management strategies and adaptive management experiments.

The current list of white paper topics include:

- Fluvial Geomorphology
- Riparian Habitat and Avifauna
- Tidal Wetlands
- Aquatic Contaminants
- Salmonids
- Delta Smelt
- Splittail
- Open Water Processes
- Diversion Effects on Fish/Environmental Water Account

The ERP has begun developing tributary assessments to help clarify the relative staging of ERP actions, and help identify packages of ERP actions to fulfill restoration objectives for specific Bay-Delta tributaries. The general objectives of the tributary assessments include:

- Identifying additional actions for potential inclusion in the ERPP;

- Refining ERP actions and targets;

- Discussing local factors limiting salmonid production, fluvial processes, and riparian regeneration processes;

- Identifying local restoration opportunities and constraints;

- Identifying potential threats to proposed ERP actions from permitted or planned human activities;

- Refining the general restoration objectives for the tributary;

- Packaging ERP actions in terms of the general restoration objectives; and

- Identifying potential adaptive management experiments.

DECISION ANALYSIS MODEL

The ERP has commissioned the development of a decision analysis model to help define and evaluate alternative management options for a restoration issue that is central to the ERP. A decision analysis model defines and evaluates alternative management options by characterizing: the ecological and biological benefits associated with each option; the ecological, social, and economic tradeoffs associated with each option; and the information value to be gained for each management option. The general objectives of the modeling project are to test the applicability of

decision analysis modeling to CALFED restoration issues and to refine CALFED's adaptive management approach by defining experimental management options for a central restoration issue.

Taken together, the white papers and the reconnaissance-level technical analysis will help identify a subset of ERP actions that will be prioritized and evaluated using the action selection criteria described in the next section.

PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

The following is a draft list of criteria that will be used to prioritize and select ERP actions for implementation in Stage 1. The application of these criteria to candidate ERP actions will make the selection of Stage 1 actions more transparent.

ECOLOGICAL BENEFIT

- **PROVIDE BENEFIT FOR SPECIAL-STATUS FISH SPECIES.** While the goal of the long-term Ecosystem Restoration Program is to recover and maintain stable, self-sustaining populations of all plant and animal species that rely upon the Delta for part or all of their life history needs, Stage 1 actions will focus primarily upon restoring processes and habitats that benefit endangered and threatened fish species and fish species that are candidates for listing under the state or federal ESA. For instance, numerous Stage 1 actions focus on restoring spawning and rearing habitat and reducing stressors that affect various races of chinook salmon, steelhead trout, delta smelt, and splittail. These special-status fish species are at the center of the most strident conflicts among beneficial uses of Bay-Delta resources. Protecting the survival of special-status fish species will not only preserve integral components of the Bay-Delta ecosystem, but also helps to reduce conflict among beneficial uses of Bay-Delta resources.

- **RESTORES ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES /IS SELF-SUSTAINING.** Actions that restore the dynamic flows of water, sediment, nutrients, woody debris and biota—the building blocks of habitat—are generally preferable to restoration actions that physically reconstruct habitat. Restoring habitats by restoring ecological processes can recreate subtle elements of ecosystem structure and function that likely improve the quality of restored habitat. Restoring ecological processes can also reduce the amount of human intervention required to maintain the value of restored habitat. For example, an area of physically reconstructed salmonid spawning habitat may wash out during high flows, necessitating the continual reconstruction of habitat following high flow events. In contrast, restoring flows of water and sediment can create and maintain spawning habitat with less human intervention, such that the high flow events transport and distribute restored sediments, allowing the system to organize its own spawning habitat.

- **PROVIDE BENEFIT FOR MULTIPLE SPECIES.** The design and location of a restoration action can determine the plant and animal species that it benefits. In terms of project design, restoration actions that restore ecological processes generally benefit multiple species by recreating or mimicking the habitat conditions under which native species evolved. The location of a restoration action also helps

Selection Criteria

Ecological benefit:
- Provide benefit for special-status fish species
- Restores ecological processes/is self-sustaining
- Provide benefit for multiple species
- Provide greatest benefit-cost ratio for native species
- Are complementary

Information value:
- Improve understanding of ecosystem structure and function
- Offer information richness
- Provide results in a short time-frame and inform decisions about potential storage and conveyance facilities

Public Support/Implementability:
- Contribute to multiple Program objectives and minimize conflicts among Program components
- Have high public support and visibility
- Ability to attain Regulatory Compliance

determine the number and types of plant and animal species that will benefit. For example, the inundation of a floodplain in one part of the ecosystem may provide important rearing habitat for a particular species of fish, while the inundation of a floodplain in another location may provide not only rearing habitat for that same species of fish, but also spawning habitat for other fish species, and foraging habitat for multiple bird species. Project locations that will benefit multiple species will generally receive more favorable consideration.

- **PROVIDE THE BENEFIT-COST RATIO FOR NATIVE SPECIES.** Restoration actions will require water, land/easements, material, and financial resources for implementation. The expenditure of resources for the implementation of any action reduces the resources available for other actions. Consequently, it is important to implement actions that will optimize the ecological benefit and/or the information value gained for the resources expended. Actions with the greatest potential to improve ecological conditions or our understanding of the ecosystem for the amount of resources required to implement the action will be good candidates for Stage 1 implementation.

- **ARE COMPLEMENTARY.** Many of the restoration actions described in Volume II of the ERPP must be implemented in concert or in sequence. For example, the addition of spawning-sized gravel to a tributary deprived of its historical coarse sediment load by a dam will need to be accompanied by flow releases sufficient to mobilize and distribute the introduced sediments. Similarly, efforts to restore salmonid spawning habitat may need to be accompanied by restoration of rearing habitat to accommodate an increase in the production of juvenile fish. Actions that can be bundled together to achieve complementary effects will be better candidates for Stage 1 implementation, since they can help ensure more comprehensive restoration and speed progress toward achieving restoration objectives.

INFORMATION VALUE

- **IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OF ECOSYSTEM STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION.** While much is known about the Bay-Delta ecosystem, there are still gaps in our knowledge about how the ecosystem is structured and how it functions. This uncertainty hampers our ability to adequately define problems are to design effective restoration actions with sufficient confidence. Improving our understanding of the ecosystem can provide a more solid foundation for the long-term ERP, by allowing resource managers to design future restoration actions to be more effective in achieving restoration objectives. Thus, projects with greater potential to improve our understanding of important ecosystem elements and dynamics will generally be good candidates for Stage 1 implementation.

- **OFFER INFORMATION RICHNESS.** The location of restoration actions can determine the value of the information that the action yields. For example, projects underlain by historical and baseline data, such as stream gauge records and baseline biological monitoring, can generally provide more valuable information by placing the results of the restoration action within a larger ecological context. Similarly, certain projects may provide unique opportunities to limit the number of confounding variables, such that the monitored response of the ecosystem to a management action can be attributed more directly to the action rather than factors beyond control.

- **PROVIDE RESULTS IN A SHORT TIME-FRAME AND INFORM DECISIONS ABOUT POTENTIAL STORAGE AND CONVEYANCE FACILITIES.** Restoration actions that yield ecological benefits and information in a short time-frame are good candidates for Stage 1 implementation since they can both build public support for the restoration program and inform the selection and design of future restoration actions. At the end of Stage 1, the Program will determine the new storage and conveyance facilities that may be needed to meet Program objectives, so restoration actions

will be selected and designed for implementation in Stage 1 to help inform such decisions at the end of Stage 1.

PUBLIC SUPPORT/ IMPLEMENTABILITY

- **CONTRIBUTE TO MULTIPLE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND MINIMIZE CONFLICTS AMONG PROGRAM COMPONENTS.** The ERP is inextricably linked to other CALFED Program components, such as water quality, levee system integrity, and water supply reliability. Ecosystem restoration actions that also contribute to other Program components are good candidates for Stage 1 implementation since they can help ensure that progress toward multiple Program objectives is balanced--an assurance mechanism. Care in the design and location of ecosystem restoration actions will also help to minimize conflicts with other Program components.

- **HIGH PUBLIC SUPPORT AND VISIBILITY.** The public will play in important role in the types and location of restoration actions to be implemented, as well as the overall scope of restoration to be achieved. Actions that enjoy broad public support are better candidates for Stage 1 implementation since they are less likely to be mired in controversy that can delay or undermine their implementation. Pilot projects can also help build public confidence in restoration actions, thereby laying a foundation for the long-term public support that will be necessary to implement the long-term restoration program.

- **ABILITY TO ATTAIN REGULATORY COMPLIANCE.** ERP actions that can be covered adequately by the Programmatic EIS/EIR and do not require additional, site-specific documentation will be good candidates for Stage 1 implementation. However, most proposed ERP actions will require additional environmental documentation and the acquisition of regulatory permits to ensure compliance with laws and regulations. Since the preparation of environmental documents can be a lengthy process, it will be important to ensure that the proposed Stage 1 actions will be ripe for implementation in the first 7 years by identifying the permitting and environmental documentation requirements for each action and estimating the time required to complete them.

IMPLEMENTABILITY CRITERIA

The ERP Strategic Plan describes a conceptual framework and process for refining, evaluating, prioritizing, implementing, monitoring, and revising ERP actions. This conceptual framework includes the identification and application of selection criteria for screening, refining, and prioritizing ERP actions for implementation. The ERP Strategic Plan identifies three primary categories of selection criteria for refining and prioritizing ERP actions:

1. Ecological Benefit;
2. Information Value; and
3. Implementability/Public Support.

Using this conceptual framework and selection criteria as a starting point, the ERP Focus Group has examined the concept of the third suggested criteria (implementability/public support) in more detail, including how such criteria should be defined and when and how they should be applied within an overall priority setting process, including how they should be balanced with other important considerations/criteria (such as ecological benefit and information value criteria). With regard to specific criterion, the ERP Focus Group focused only on implementability criteria. The group did not review or discuss specific ecological benefit or information value criteria. A list of proposed implementability criteria developed by the ERP Focus Group for use in setting priorities and selecting projects for ERP implementation is presented below.

The purpose of implementability criteria is to ensure that issues related to the overall implementability of a proposed action are considered and evaluated in the prioritization and project selection process. The criteria themselves are meant to be screens; they are not intended to function as "on-off" switches. Rather these criteria

are intended to represent important factors for evaluating the relative merits of various options. For example, one suggested implementability criterion at the project selection level is "ease of implementation." It is applied not to eliminate projects that are more challenging to undertake, but rather to rank one project characteristic against numerous other criteria that assess implementability. Furthermore, "ease of implementation" in and of itself is not necessarily an overall preferred criterion, given the adaptive management approach embedded in the ERP.

Implementability criteria for selection of ERP actions be applied both at a regional level, where a number of activities must be planned and coordinated, and at the local, project-specific level with outreach and involvement of local officials in affected areas including, but not limited to, watershed groups, local conservancies, local planning groups, property owners, and native American tribes. At the regional level of planning in particular, multiple opportunities exist for achieving multiple CALFED objectives and minimizing conflicts across Program actions, one of the key factors identified in the ERP Strategic Plan.

REGIONAL IMPLEMENTABILITY CRITERIA

At the regional level, implementability criteria should be used as screens that on a broad-brush scale can help determine whether or not a project or action is implementable. These criteria should be applied early in the regional planning process in order to ensure that projects and actions are physically implementable and that coordination to enhance achievement of overall CALFED Program objectives is considered. Local interests including, but not limited to, watershed groups, local conservancies, environmental justice groups, local planning groups, property owners, and Native American tribes are to be involved in application of these criteria, to ensure that decisions are fully informed by local consideration prior to decision-making.

The following broad regional implementability criteria will be used:

- **INFRASTRUCTURE CRITERIA:** Areas proposed for restoration should be assessed for presence of heavy development or significant existing infrastructure (e.g., large subdivisions, industrial complexes, major interstate and state highways). Areas proposed for restoration should be investigated to determine the potential for imminent or likely land use conflicts.

- **LANDSCAPE RESISTANCE CRITERIA:** Projects and actions should be investigated to determine, from an ecosystem restoration perspective, their relative feasibility based on key landscape conditions such as elevation or topography.

- **SUSTAINABILITY CRITERIA:** Proposed actions or projects should be screened for their sustainability given existing ecological processes such as floods, tides, sea level rise, wind or wave erosion, etc.

- **MSCS CONSISTENCY CRITERIA:** Actions or projects should be screened for their consistency with the MSCS.

- **PROGRAM INTEGRATION/MULTIPLE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:** These criteria assess the extent to which proposed actions foster the CALFED Program as a whole and are well integrated with other program elements, both within CALFED and with other related programs.

- **PUBLIC OUTREACH AND LOCAL INVOLVEMENT:** This criterion ensures public outreach and opportunities for local involvement, input, and advice at the regional planning level has occurred.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

In the process of setting ERP priorities at the regional level, one or more CALFED agencies, or local stakeholders, may disagree regarding the advisability of proceeding on a certain type of project proposed in a regional plan. In its proposed